



## **H.R. 2884 – Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 2884 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD) on June 26, 2007. The bill was sent to the House Committee on Judiciary where it was reported out by unanimous consent on October 24, 2007.

H.R. 2884 is expected to be considered on the House floor on November 6, 2007.

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2884 seeks to make it easier for non-naturalized citizens to become naturalized upon joining the armed forces. The legislation allows the fingerprinting process used by the armed forces to translate into the naturalization process, instead of making applicants submit two fingerprint tests.

Additionally, H.R. 2884 establishes a 1-800 number for service members and their families to inquire as to the status of their naturalization. This section also implements a quality control program to monitor the accuracy and quality of information provided by the employees who operate the telephone service.

The legislation also sets in place reporting requirements to ensure that the provisions are being used effectively and determine if they can be changed to make the system run more efficiently.

### **BACKGROUND**

The bill is named for Specialist Kendell Frederick, a native and citizen of Trinidad, who was killed by a roadside bomb on October 19, 2005, in Iraq as he traveled in a convoy to a base to get fingerprinted for naturalization. He had been trying for more than a year to become a U.S. citizen. His efforts were thwarted by miscommunication and misinformation from the U.S. government and his inability to have his fingerprints taken in Maryland because he was serving in Iraq. He was posthumously granted U.S. citizenship.

### **COST**

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored this legislation.

### **STAFF CONTACT**

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